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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

First migrant special train from city chugs to UP

3,000 people from Uttar Pradesh stranded in Mysuru to reach homes in Shramik Special

Pic. 1: ***A migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh displays his Aadhaar Card to a Railway official before boarding the Shramik Special Train from Ashokapuram Railway Station in Mysuru this morning.*** *Pic. 2:* ***A migrant worker being thermal-screened by a healthcare worker before he boarded the train to Uttar Pradesh.*** *Pic. 3:* ***A healthcare worker thermal-screens a mother and a child before allowing them to board the Shramik Special Train.***

Mysuru, May 16 (RK,DM& BCT)- The fervent appeals by thousands of migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh (UP) to permit them to return to their native places has been realised today with the State Government facilitating them to travel by train from city to their home State.

They were stranded in Mysuru during lockdown with no jobs and means of livelihood and they depended entirely on the food that was donated by donors, NGOs and volunteers. Today, the first batch of about 1,520 migrant workers left Mysuru for Gorakhpur in Eastern UP in a Shramik Special train from Ashokapuram Railway Station this afternoon. The Shramik Special train services are being operated to transport migrant workers, tourists, pilgrims, students as well as others who are stranded in different places.

Over 3,000 migrant workers from UP were housed in various temporary shelter homes across the city by the District Administration following the COVID-19 lockdown. These workers since then were demanding the administration to facilitate their return to native places. Subsequent to the Union Government's decision to run Shramik Special trains exclusively for migrant workers across the country to return to their home States, the Karnataka Government had requested the Centre to run the special trains from Mysuru.

Today, the first of the two designated trains left Mysuru for Gorakhpur from Ashokapuram Railway Station. The train travels through Bengaluru, Dharmavaram, Nagpur, Itarsi and Lucknow to reach Gorakhpur on Monday (May 18) morning.

As per the information available with the Railway officials, there were 13 migrants from Alanahalli, 26 from Ashokapuram, 45 from Devaraja Police limits, 82 from Hebbal, 23 from Jayalakshmipuram, 13 from Krishnaraja, 14 from Kuvempunagar, 51 from Lashkar Mohalla, 10 from Lakshmipuram, 115 from Mandi Mohalla, 74 from Metagalli, 163 from Narasimharaja, 86 from Nazarbad, 63 from Saraswathipuram, 62 from Udayagiri, 43 from Vidyaranyapuram, 154 from Vijayanagar, 27 from V.V. Puram and 75 from Mysuru city centre. These people were joined by a few more at the Ashokapuram Railway Station.

Thermal screening

Before they boarded the train, migrant workers were taken in KSRTC buses from their respective shelter homes to the sprawling ground adjoining Ashokapuram Railway Station where the workers were thermal-screened.

Health check-ups, were also conducted and all the workers were required to mandatorily wear face masks, maintain social distancing and follow other lockdown regulations during the journey.

(See TRAIN on page 6)

Mysuru's COVID frontline officers honoured

- Flower petals showered; copy of Indian Constitution gifted
- Rs. 3,000 cheque, food kits, immunity-boosters given to ASHA workers

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar being felicitated by District Minister S.T. Somashekar at Kalamandira this morning as MP Pratap Simha, MLAs G.T. Devegowda, S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra and MCDCC Bank President G.D. Harish Gowda look on. *[More photos on page 5]*

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&BCT)- The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed thousands of lives, shaken Governments and pummelled markets.

It has, however, failed to crush the indomitable spirit of Corona Warriors who have been working inhuman hours, in conditions of extreme risk, to keep the rest of us safe. And it is because of them, today, Mysuru has been declared COVID-free with all the positive patients cured of the killer disease.

(See OFFICERS HONOURED on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Lions Mysore West contributes towards COVID-19 relief

Free food distribution for migrants at Nanjaraja Bahadur Shelter Camp.

Lions Club of Mysore West contributing PPE kits to the hospitals. Ln. Gururaj, President Ln. Dr. Mahesh Rao and representative of JSS Hospital are seen.

Mysuru, May 16-Lions Club of Mysore West is doing its bit to help the frontline warriors (doctors, nurses, support staff, Police) and others in the battle against the pandemic which has brought the world to its knees.

Over the past couple of months, the Club has been involved in a series of service activities in partnership with district administration and other NGOs.

The Club provided 100 sets of bedsheets/blankets/pillow-covers, 700 FFP2 masks, 100 PPE sets to hospitals including District Hospital, KR Hospital and JSS Hospital. In addition, 1000 bottles of hand sanitizers were distributed to the nurses and aayas of KR and Cheluvamba Hospitals with help from NR Group.

Besides health workers, the Club made food arrangements for migrant workers at Nanjaraja Bahadur shelter camp for the second lockdown period, providing three meals a day through the Lions Hunger alleviation kitchen.

The Club also supported tribals at H.D. Kote by distributing free ration kits to 80 tribal families. The cost of above initiatives was approximately Rs. 5 lakh. In addition, the Club through its Lions Sevanikethan School, contributed Rs. 10 lakh to PM CARES Fund.

"Our Club will continue to be at the forefront in helping the country in times of need. We collectively hail the efforts of the health workers in Mysuru and elsewhere in the country in combating COVID-19 menace," said Ln. Dr. Mahesh Rao, the President of Lions Club of Mysore West.

Thirteen COVID-19 positive cases in Mandya yesterday

Mandya, May 16 (Nagaiah &KS)- Thirteen people including three children have been tested positive for COVID-19 in Mandya district yesterday. The number of positive cases in the district has now risen to 49.

According to the report, all the 13 persons who tested positive had arrived from Mumbai and had quarantined themselves. They include two girls aged six and nine, a 15-year-old boy, eight males and two females, who have been kept in isolation at MIMS Hospital.

As of now, 19 persons have recovered and have been discharged from the hospital and 30 persons are undergoing treatment.

28 cases in K.R. Pet alone

Out of the total 49 positive cases traced in the district, 28 positive cases are from K.R. Pet alone and all these positive cases are linked to Mumbai and Maharashtra which has created panic among those in K.R. Pet and Nagamangala taluk.

Online classes at KNC

Innovative Global School

School Chairman Dr. K.N. Chandrashekar and teacher Vijayalakshmi seen during one of the online sessions.

Mysuru, May 16- KNC Innovative Global School, Hebbal Industrial Area, has started online classes for Class 9, 10 and II PUC students from May 4.

All the necessary e-books, videos and questions-answers are being uploaded online and students are taking active part. Teachers are taking classes via Video Conference and clearing the doubts of students, if any, according to a press release from Manager (Admin) K.V. Dinesh. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2402929.

Amid COVID scare, Anganwadi

workers come in aid of beneficiaries

Mysuru, May 16 (MTY& BNR)- Following the outbreak of Coronavirus, amongst the most hit are the Anganwadi children, pregnant and lactating women, who used to get their nutritional diet from the Government.

Now Anganwadi activists have taken up the job of home-delivering the nutritional food (grocery) released by the Government to the beneficiaries during the lockdown period.

Groceries are distributed to children divided on age groups, pregnant women, lactating women and malnourished children.

At present, Mysuru district has 1,19,770 children, 149 malnourished children, 9,341 pregnant women, 8,466 lactating mothers and 174 kishoris.

What they get?

Six months to 3 year old children: 1 kg jaggery, 100 gram sugar and 300 gram milk powder.

SC/ ST children: 600 gram milk power, 8 eggs and 450 gram nutrition food.

3 to 6 year old children: 1 kg channa, 400 gram tur dal, 400 gram jaggery, 500 gram shenga seeds, 3.5 kg rice, 60 gram sambar powder, 100 gram sugar and 300 gram milk powder.

Pregnant & lactating women

750 gram channa, 500 gram tur dal, 750 gram jaggery, 600 gram shenga seeds, 5 kg rice, 210 gram sambar powder, 250 gram sugar, 500 gram milk powder and 25 eggs.

Kishori

1 kg channa, 1 kg tur dal, 1.300 kg jaggery and 4 kg rice.

Malnourished children

1 kg channa, 1 kg tur dal, 500 gram jaggery, 600 gram shenga seeds, 7 kg rice, 200 gram sambar powder, 150 gram sugar, 450 gram milk powder and 22 eggs.

Already taluk-wise CDPOs (Child Development Project Officers) have put indent and received the grocery from FCI (Food Corporation of India).

In Mysuru district, 2,812 Anganwadi activists and 2,587 Anganwadi Assistants have started distributing grocery to the beneficiaries.

Anganwadi activist Mamata Rajesh handing over the nutrition food to a beneficiary at Sharadadevi Nagar in Mysuru.

Strict action will be initiated against anyone found misusing the nutrition food supplied for children and pregnant and lactating women. All Anganwadi activists have been informed about home-delivering the food and have been asked to collect photos of beneficiaries receiving the groceries. If any Anganwadi children are not getting their grocery, complaint can be lodged at Women and Child Welfare Department Office.

—K. Padma, Dy. Director, Women & Child Welfare Department

Online Seminar for Seshadripuram Degree students

Mysuru, May 16- As part of its Student Development Programme, 'Akanksha,' Commerce Club of Seshadripuram Degree College, Outer Ring Road, Hebbal, had organised an Online Seminar on 'Uplifting of Indian Economy Post COVID-19' for all the students across the district on May 9 from its Seminar Hall. K. Shreedevi N. Prabhu, Coordinator of the Commerce Club, welcomed the participants and introduced the Resource Person of the Online Seminar, Dr. Ramesh Salian, Deputy Controller of Examination, Tumkur University.

The Resource Person spoke at length about, 'Uplifting of Indian Economy Post COVID-19.' He said that the GDP of India has completely fallen down due to COVID-19 but India has favourable chances of uplifting its GDP post COVID-19 because the whole world is looking at India for their future investments. India has enormous opportunities to improve its economy by utilising its manpower, exports and imports, pharmaceutical industry, health care sector and a host of other sectors. He was of the opinion that India will become a hub of higher education in the future.

"COVID-19 has been a blessing in disguise for India to improve its economy. India must re-define its economic plans, policies and must work hard productively empowering the youth and the migrant workers. India must help its citizen to maintain a good health in order to uplift the economy of the country. India has dynamic leaders and leadership and therefore, it should be able to recover within no time," he added.

Ph.D awardee

Mysuru, May 16- J.K. Sujatha has been awarded Ph.D in Law by University of Mysore (UoM) for her thesis 'The Role of Writ of Habeas Corpus in UK and India-Issues and Perspective' submitted under the guidance of Dr. C. Basavaraju.

VOICE OF THE READER

Interest rates on bank deposits and plight of senior citizens

Sir,

Apropos the letter of Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra on interest rates, it is true that there is steep reduction in interest rates on bank deposits and Savings Bank accounts very frequently. In the early days, a depositor had to pay banks for safe custody. The situation now is again heading towards that practice.

Government is also progressively reducing every quarter the interest rates on savings products like Fixed Deposits, NSCs, Senior Citizen Scheme etc. Senior Citizens cannot afford to take financial risks in venturing into various other modes of investments like Shares and nowadays Mutual Funds too.

Bonds and other securities require professional support where also investment is too long with low rate of interest. Non-pensioners are put to maximum hardship. In this situation the only remedy is that children should take care of parents and other seniors. Just as there is a right to property/assets for children, they owe a responsibility towards parents and other kith & kin who are childless. We should build a good and strong society to help seniors pass through their old age with the satisfaction of their successive generations prospering. Now that Western and Gulf countries have no place for expatriates due to economic recession, children should try to settle with parents as near as possible. Hope things will improve over a period of time.

— M.R. Rangarajan

Gokulam
15.5.2020

Power disruption tomorrow

Mysuru, May 16- As Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has taken up emergency maintenance works, power supply will be disrupted in the following areas from 10 am to 5 pm tomorrow (May 17) :

Ashoka Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Tilak Nagar, Mission Hospital, Gandhi Circle, Old Bank Road, K.T. Street, Dodda Vokkaligara Beedi, Irwin Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, Olympia Talkies, Pulikeshi Road, Kailasapuram, Mandi Mohalla, areas around Rajkamal Talkies, Shivarampet, K.R. Hospital, Boti Bazar, Market, Dhanvantri Road, Veeranagere, Shivaji Road, St. Mary's Road, Gandhi Nagar, M.G. Block, Ganesh Nagar, Rajendra Nagar, Kesare 1, 2 and 3rd Stage, Subhash Nagar, N.R. Mohalla and surrounding areas, according to a press release from the Executive Engineer, N.R. Mohalla Division.

MCC distributes medicines to special children

Donates Rs.1.15 lakh worth hearing aid to hearing-impaired girl

Mysuru, May 16 (RKB)- Over 50 special children were distributed with free medicines by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and Corporator M.V. Ramprasad at Arunodaya School for Special Children in Chamundipuram here yesterday.

MCC Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar distributed the medicines to special children from Vidyaranyapuram, Chamundipuram, Kanakagiri, Gundurao Nagar, Gowrishankar Nagar, Agrahara and other areas. Also, on the occasion, a hearing-impaired girl by name Bhargavi was provided with a hearing aid worth Rs.1.15 lakh. Corporator M.V. Ramprasad, leaders C. Sandeep, Shivu, Tulasi, Mamatha, Neela, Arpitha and others were present.

ASHA workers launch online letter campaign seeking special package

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&DM)- ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers, who are working overtime as Corona Warriors going door-to-door and collecting data from each member of the house, on Monday launched an online campaign urging the Government to announce a special package for them.

More than 2,000 ASHA workers from different parts of the district took part in the online campaign by sending letters via WhatsApp and e-mail to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Health Minister B. Sriramulu.

Pointing out that there are over 41,000 ASHA workers serving under the Health Department in the State, they expressed disappointment over being left out in the package recently announced by the State Government that covered workers from the unorganised sector.

File photo of ASHA workers during COVID duty.

Highlighting that they are working day and night while risking their own health in the war against the deadly Coronavirus, they claimed that they are the first informants of Corona cases most of the times.

Maintaining that in some instances they are working without any safety gears such as face masks and sanitisers, they said that with less pay, they were facing a lot of difficulties in running their family. In this backdrop, the Government should announce a special package where all ASHA workers are paid an additional monthly honoraria of Rs.10,000 with retrospective effect from March till the war against COVID-19 ends.

Coins of different designs in same denomination remain in circulation at the same time as coins have a long life.
Accept them without hesitation
JAGO GRAHAK JAGO
DAVP 08101/13/0003/2021
Ankit Rajput
Cricketer and RBI Employee
KL Rahul
Cricketer and RBI Employee
Do not believe in misleading information or rumours about coins
All banks have been instructed to accept coins in transactions and exchange them at all their branches*
Visit www.rbi.org.in/coins for information on all coins that are currently in circulation
*Terms & conditions apply
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Call National Consumer Helpline from anywhere in India
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www.consumerhelpline.gov.in
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Department of Consumer Affairs
Government of India,
www.consumeraffairs.nic.in
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SKWATCH

Heavenly Visitor 'Swan' at its best in May

The most beautiful and unpredictable celestial object perceptible in the night or morning sky is the 'Comet'. Most of the time, Comets remain in deep-frozen "sleep" in outer space, but occasionally they are dislodged from their orbits and fall forward the inner Solar System. Comets are at their brightest when they are closest to the Sun, it is best to search for them in the sky directly after sunset although never when the Sun is still above the horizon.

In the month of May this year, fix your stares on the sky to watch the spasmodic Comet 'SWAN'. Throughout May, it will be visible in the Northern Hemisphere.

The behaviour of the Comets is highly unpredictable. Comets large enough to be detected in the outer Solar System may prove to have thick, insulating crusts that they never develop, whereas smaller Comets may be as insubstantial as a snowball and melt away to fragments as they come closer to the Sun. We can expect a ghostly green blob to grow brighter in the sky near 'Pisces' in the coming days, as Comet C/2020 F8 SWAN made its closest approach to Earth. This Comet made its closest approach to Earth on May 12 and will reach Perihelion (Closest approach to Sun) on May 27, flying by just 55 to 90 million kilometers (0.6 Astronomical Units) from our planet.

C/2020 F8 SWAN is a comet which was discovered in the images taken by the Solar Wind Anisotropies (SWAN) camera on March 25, 2020, abroad the Solar Heliospheric Observer (SOHO) spacecraft. This Comet is certainly the comet of the moment, with reports abounding that its tail is about 16 million kilometers and shall be absolutely wonderful and bright naked eye in the coming days.

Comets are the least predictable members of the Solar System. A 'Comet' is a ball of ice and dust that orbits Sun. Presently, 'SWAN' can be seen in 'Pisces' constellation at a visual magnitude of 4 to 4.5 and has been getting brighter and larger since March 2020. On May 20, the magnitude may be 3. Note that, lower the value of magnitude, greater the brightness of the object. Although this Comet was very low in February 2020, it moved rapidly and can be located moderately high in the eastern horizon.

Since comet 'SWAN' is generally referred to as a 'Morning Comet', it can be usually seen at around 5 am. Even with the help of small telescopes and binoculars, the Comet is noticeable. The Comet is visible from all parts of India. The various astronomical devices used to witness this particular comet are Celstron Nexstar11 telescope, Meade F3.3 focal reducer, and Stellacam II video camera and Canon 6D, 200 mm Lens f6.3, SO 800.

During the first two weeks of June also, Comet may be clearly visible. The reflecting telescope with 6-inch reflector will do to witness this Comet. For the next chance to see this comet, we may have to wait till 2061. So enjoy watching 'SWAN' and reveal the magnificence of Astronomy.

— Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna
Observational Astronomer

Actor-Producer Shruti Naidu extends special thanks to Police Force

Mysuru, May 16- The Police Force has been on the forefront of the fight against the Coronavirus along with doctors and medical staff. Actor-Producer Shruti Naidu paid them a unique tribute recently. A specially designed silver coin placed in a commemorative box was handed over to 90 staff and Policemen of Kuvempunagar Police Station in Mysuru by her. Each of the silver coin weighs 20 grams.

The coins were handed over to the Police in the presence of Assistant Commissioner of Police Poornachandra Tejaswi and Police Inspector G.C. Raju.

Shruti Naidu said that it was her tribute to the Corona Warriors. "I have watched these Policemen everyday doing their duty out in the sun. It is a tough job to control people during such a situation. I have seen them pleading with people, trying to convince them and sometimes even have to shout at wrongdoers. At the end of the day, they are at the receiving end as people throw their frustrations on them. Police all over are enduring this every day for the last two months only to protect us. I felt it was not enough to just say thank you to them in an online post or message. This is a gift to them on behalf of all people," she said. The efforts of Mysuru DC Abhiram Sankar and City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta were also hailed by Shruti Naidu.

Shruti has been on the forefront of providing succour to those troubled during this pandemic. Recently she had provided food kits to tribal families in three villages. Her 'Mysuru Mirchi' restaurant in city has also been playing a role in these efforts.

MLA S.R. Mahesh alleges huge scam in MyMUL recruitment

Releases three audios in support of his claim

Mysuru, May 16 (RKB&DM)- Alleging a huge scam in MyMUL (Mysuru Milk Union Limited) recruitments, K.R. Nagar JD(S) MLA and former Minister S.R. Mahesh has urged the Government to immediately scrap the entire recruitment process.

Addressing a press meet at his office near Rama Vilas Road here yesterday, Mahesh alleged that huge sums of money had changed hands in the recruitment to various posts in MyMUL.

Maintaining that prospective candidates had paid a big sum for getting job in MyMUL, Mahesh released three audios in support of his allegations, wherein some MyMUL Directors are allegedly heard demanding huge sums of money from candidates.

Accusing MyMUL of unauthorisedly adding 25 more posts to the original recruitment notification, the MLA alleged a match-fixing deal between MyMUL President and Directors in the recruitment.

Pointing out that MyMUL has deferred the oral interview that was scheduled to take place from May 18 after directions from Mysuru District-in charge Minister, who is also the Co-operation Minister, Mahesh warned that the JD(S) will launch a massive protest in front of MyMUL office on Bannur Road here under the leadership of former Minister H.D. Revanna on May 19, if MyMUL goes ahead with the conduct of interviews.

Urging those who have taken the money to return the same to candidates, he advised the candidates against paying money on the promise of getting jobs.

T. Narasipur JD(S) MLA M. Ashwin Kumar, MyMUL Director A.T. Somasekhar, Corporator Prema Shankaregowda, former Corporator K.V. Mallesh, Ex-President Dwarakish and others were present at the press meet.

Former MLA Vasu to distribute ration kits from tomorrow

Mysuru, May 16 (RK&DM)- Former MLA and Senior Congress leader Vasu will distribute ration kits to the poor and needy from tomorrow (May 17).

Announcing this at a press meet at his residence in Jayalakshmipuram here on Friday, Vasu, a former Congress MLA of Chamaraja Assembly segment, said that ration kits distribution will be launched at Mahadeshwara temple premises in Paduvarahalli (Vinayakanagar) at 11 am on May 17 in the presence of Suttur Mutt Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji and Adichunchanagiri Mutt Seer Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji.

Pointing out that the list of beneficiaries covering all MCC wards has been prepared, he said that the beneficiaries include persons from all sections of the society irrespective of their caste, creed or religion.

Maintaining that he and his family members had distributed ration kits and medicines to the needy earlier in the city and taluk during COVID lockdown without much publicity, he said that the distribution to be launched tomorrow will be on a massive scale and added that all the wards will be covered in phases.

Man held for murdering friend

Mysuru, May 16 (KS)- N.R. Police have arrested a 37-year-old man on charges of murdering his friend at Gandhinagar on May 13. The accused had bludgeoned his friend Suresh to death by smashing the head with a boulder.

The accused has been identified as Peddanna alias Nagaraju of Gandhinagar. Peddanna was arrested on May 15 near Mysuru Bus Stand.

During interrogation, the accused is said to have confessed that he (Peddanna) and Suresh were friends and both of them had fought after consuming liquor following which he killed Suresh.

DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and N.R. Sub-Division ACP Shivashankar supervised N.R. Inspector G. Shekar, Sub-Inspector H.M. Anand and staff Manjunath and Manju in the nabbing operation.

Minister lauds District Administration, people

Jubilant Generics to adopt 10 villages and distribute 50,000 free kits

Mysuru's COVID frontline officers who were honoured by District Minister S.T. Somashekar in city this morning.

Mysuru, May 16 (MTY&BCT)- Mysuru District in-charge Minister S.T. Somashekar has appreciated the officials, led by DC Abhiram G. Sankar, for their sincere efforts in containing COVID-19. "Combating the spread of infection is not an easy task. The officials have successfully contained the spread of the virus. I thank Health and other Department employees for their efforts," he said. The Minister was speaking at Mysuru city and rural BJP workers meet in city last evening.

"A Government cannot alone achieve this. Party workers, people, officers, doctors, Police, healthcare workers, ASHA workers and the general public. All have cooperated and on behalf of CM B.S. Yediyurappa, I extend my gratitude," he said.

The Minister said that Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics where over 74 COVID-19 positive cases were reported, has agreed to adopt 10 villages around the factory and contribute to overall development of the areas. "Jubilant Generics has agreed to adopt 10 villages and will distribute 50,000 free food kits to villagers. I have brought the issue to the notice of the CM and Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar and a meeting was held with the owners of Jubilant Generics and they have agreed to this proposal," he said.

On ASHA workers, who have selflessly worked towards containing the killer disease, the Minister said that each ASHA worker will be paid an extra Rs. 3,000 for their work as an encouragement. "The Co-operation Department is footing the expenditure and for this, Rs. 12.37 crore is needed. Money is not important here but service of ASHA workers has to be remembered," he said.

On the Excel Plant solid legacy waste removal project taken up by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, Somashekar said, "All the development works in Mysuru will be taken up stage by stage and I have brought to the CM's notice the MP's project. It will be approved soon," the Minister said.

15,000-strong workforce behind Mysuru's COVID fight

District Minister felicitated ASHA workers at Kalamandira today.

With soaring positive cases in other districts, Mysuru scores 0 from 90

Mysuru, May 16 (MTY&BCT)- Mysuru District, a Red Zone with 90 positive cases, has now become 'COVID-19-free' with the discharge of the last two patients who were being treated at the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road. This remarkable achievement comes at a time when most of the districts in Karnataka are grappling with soaring positive cases.

As per the data reported in these columns, the first positive case was reported on Mar. 21 and the last case was reported on Apr. 29. Among the 90 cases, Nanjangud cluster — Jubilant Generics — alone accounted for 74 while 10 cases were linked to a religious gathering in New Delhi. Two among them were Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases while two other cases belonged to Kerala.

Of the 90 patients, 81 were men and nine were women. Four persons were above 60 years of age and one a child aged 7. Though it was a challenge for the District Administration to combat the disease, the first silver lining came on Apr. 7, when the first patient was cured. The district did not look back since then and patients were cured batch by batch till May 15 (yesterday) when the last two patients were discharged.

Leadership role

In the fight against COVID-19, there were over 15,000 personnel from various wings of the District Administration and the team was led by a combination of officers led by DC Abhiram G. Sankar, Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Deputy Commissioner of Police Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, District Health Officer Dr. Venkatesh and Dean and Director of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj.

Efficient steps

The officers first declared Nanjangud as a Cluster Containment Zone and strictly enforced lockdown rules. They traced and quarantined all employees of Jubilant Generics and also their primary and secondary contacts. This proved a major success and a similar approach was done to handle returnees from the New Delhi religious congregation. Even the SARI cases were effectively handled and their contacts were quarantined. Though the lockdown and containment zones in Nanjangud and Mysuru were curfew-like measures, essential supplies were ensured to all those quarantined and all the places that were declared containment zones did not face any issues in the supply chain. Strict enforcement of containment measures and timely contact tracing ensured that there was no community spread.

Supporting the leadership were MCC Health Officers Dr. D.G. Nagaraju, Dr. Jayanth, District Vector-Borne Diseases Control Officer Dr. Chidambara and Food and Civil Supplies Department Joint Director Shivanna. There were more than 150 doctors and frontline staff, 9,000 Policemen, over 1,000 home guards, 2,500 Pourakarmikas, 50 members of MCC Abhaya Team, 650 nurses and 1,825 ASHA workers supporting the leadership.

Renewed vigour and alert

In a Facebook live message last evening, DC Abhiram Sankar thanked the doctors and paramedical staff besides the general public for their relentless efforts in containing the spread of the pandemic. "This is no time for celebration but calls for renewed vigour and alert," Sankar said pointing out that other districts which were in the green zone are now classified under red zone due to the sudden spike in the cases.

The DC urged people to maintain social distancing in public places and also to give extra care to vulnerable groups, such as senior citizens, pregnant women, children and patients. He said in case of people returning from other States or districts, institutional quarantine was mandatory for all except for those severely ill or pregnancy cases for which home quarantine was allowed.

"A few people are objecting to the quarantine but quarantine is not to harass but to protect the community," he said. As on Friday, there were 568 people under institutional quarantine in Mysuru and all their samples have been collected for testing. "If not for the co-operation of the people, it would not have been possible to contain the disease and a large number of people joined hands with the administration," he said.

DC's message

I thank all the officers, elected representatives, staff, media and all NGOs for their untiring commitment and steadfast dedication, which helped Mysuru reach the stage it is in, today. A battle is won but the war is just starting. Let's keep working like this till we win the war in Mysuru. Also, credit goes to the people of Mysuru for their co-operation and understanding."

— Abhiram G. Sankar, Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru.

District Minister visits Chamundi Hill, Palace and Bishop House

Prays outside the temple to make India free of Coronavirus just as Mysuru is COVID-free

Mysuru, May 16 (RK&DM)- Delighted with Mysuru District becoming COVID-19 free, District Minister S.T. Somashekar visited Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hill this morning and offered special prayers to the deity as a mark of gratitude.

The Minister offered prayers to the deity standing outside the temple as it has been shut for devotees due to lockdown regulations. The Minister, other people's representatives and officials received 'arati' from the temple priest while maintaining social distancing at the spot.

Speaking to presspersons, Somashekar said that he has prayed Goddess Chamundeshwari to make the entire country free of the Coronavirus just as Mysuru has become free of the deadly pandemic. He said that a decision on re-opening the temple for devotees will be taken in the coming days.

Somashekar later paid a visit to Mysore Palace and met Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar. This was a courtesy call as Yaduveer was not present when Somashekar had called on Pramoda Devi Wadiyar after taking over as Mysuru District-in-charge Minister last month.

Thereafter, the Minister paid a courtesy visit to the Bishop House on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road and sought the blessings of Bishop Rev. Fr. K.A. William.

MP Pratap Simha, MLAs G.T. Devegowda, S.A. Ramdas and L.Nagendra, BJP leader H.V. Rajeev, DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, DHO Dr. Venkatesh and other officials accompanied the Minister.

Frontline officers honoured

(Continued from page 1)

To honour the brave few who have been at the frontlines of the outbreak, a special event was held at Kalamandira in city this morning where the leaders of COVID-19 combat in Mysuru, headed by Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, were showered with flower petals and honoured with the traditional Mysuru Peta.

At the event, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers were honoured and an amount of Rs. 3,000 each was given to them. Over 180 ASHA workers were symbolically handed over the cheques and the same courtesy will be extended to all the 40,500 ASHA workers in Karnataka including 1,800 in Mysuru.

As per social distancing norms, the audience of Kalamandira did not occupy all the seats. A gap of one seat was created and ASHA workers were made to sit one seat apart.

The money to be distributed to the ASHA workers would be sourced from the Co-operation Department headed by Minister S.T. Somashekar, who is also the Mysuru District Minister. In all, Rs. 12.37 crore will be spent by the Department and money will be contributed by various co-operative bodies in the State. In Mysuru for 1,800 ASHA workers, Rs. 35 lakh has been raised from Mysuru Milk Union Limited (MYMUL) and Mysuru Chamarajanagar District Cooperative Central (MCDCC) Bank.

The officers who were felicitated were Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Deputy Commissioner of Police Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, District Health Officer Dr. Venkatesh, Zilla Panchayat CEO Prashanth Mishra, MUDA Commissioner Dr. Natesh and others.

These officers were felicitated and a copy of Indian Constitution — a symbol of power, service and duties — were given to them.

On behalf of MCDCC Bank President G.D. Harish Gowda, food kits were distributed to ASHA workers and 'Chavanprash' lehya boxes were given away to boost the immunity of ASHA workers who spend most of their duty time on field. The immunity-boosters were distributed by Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Department.

First migrant special train from city

A Railway Police carries a migrant worker's baby in his arms at the Ashokapuram Station.

(Continued from page 1)

The train fare, which is fixed at Rs. 895 per head, had to be borne by the migrant workers. The KSRTC too charged them Rs.40 per head to ferry them from their respective shelter home to Ashokapuram Railway Station. Today's train had 20 coaches and all of them were completely sanitised. Even the KSRTC buses were sanitised.

Tomorrow, (May 17), the second such train will leave for Gorakhpur from Ashokapuram Railway Station in the afternoon, carrying the second batch of about 1,500 migrant workers.

Railways take precautions

From the Mysuru Division two Shramik Special - one from Ashokapuram (Mysuru) to Gorakhpur the other one from Kabakaputtur to Lucknow with 1520 passengers in each -- started their journey today.

A press release from the Railways stated that to maintain personal hygiene, adequate quantity of soap and sanitisers have been provided in all the compartments. Before boarding the passengers were explained about the precautions to be observed given the highly infectious nature of the disease.

Security arrangements

A total of six Railway Protection Force personnel will be escorting each train, end-to-end, for coordinating with Government Railway Police/State Police of the respective State Governments in the path of the train for sorting out any logistic or law and order issues smoothly.

The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has made elaborate arrangements for supplying food and water to passengers of these trains both at the originating point as well as at the end route stations working in tandem with other Railway Divisions.

Obituary

Srimathi

Mysuru, May 16- Srimathi (76), wife of retired Sub-Inspector K. Subbarao and a resident of Srirampura, passed away on Thursday in city.

She leaves behind her husband, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill on Friday morning.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,387
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,764
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	623
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	Nil
Total samples tested	:	5,785
Samples found negative	:	5,695
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	50
Persons cured / discharged	:	19
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	1,092
Persons cured / discharged	:	496
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	36
Total active cases in India	:	53,035
Persons cured / discharged	:	30,151
Death toll so far in India	:	2,752

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

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